CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for use in a borehole for electrical imaging during rotary drilling comprising:

(a) a resistivity sensor having a specified offset from a wall of the borehole;

(b) an orientation sensor making a measurement of a toolface angle of said apparatus during continued rotation thereof; and

(c) a device for maintaining said resistivity sensor at said specified offset.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said resistivity sensor comprises a galvanic sensor.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said sensor is mounted on a pad.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said sensor is mounted on a rib.

5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said sensor is mounted on a stabilizer.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said sensor further comprises

(i) a current electrode for conveying a measure current into said formation through a conducting fluid, and

(ii) at least one guard electrode proximate to said current electrode for maintaining focusing of said measure current.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said at least one guard electrode focuses said measure current in a direction substantially normal to said borehole wall.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said at least one guard electrode surrounds said measure electrode and maintains a focusing of said measure current in a flushed zone of said formation.

9. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the at least one guard electrode comprises a plurality of guard electrodes for altering a depth of investigation of said resistivity sensor.

10. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said at least one guard electrode comprises a plurality of guard electrodes that create substantially spherical equipotential surfaces *spherical focusing*

11. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said sensor further comprises:

(i) a current electrode for conveying a measure current into said formation, and

(ii) a measure electrode spaced apart from said current electrode,

the apparatus further comprising a processor for determining from a voltage of said measure electrode and said measure current an indication of a resistivity of said earth formation. *short normal*

12. The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising monitor electrodes to support the focusing in the presence of non negligible contact impedances.

13. The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising monitor electrodes to support the focusing in the presence of non negligible contact impedances.

14. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein further comprising a pad that substantially circumscribes said apparatus, said pad carrying said sensor thereon

15. The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising monitor electrodes to support the focusing in the presence of non negligible contact impedances.

16. The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising a controller for maintaining a substantially constant power consumption by said electrodes.

17. The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising a controller for maintaining a substantially constant power consumption by said electrodes.

18. The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising a controller for maintaining a substantially constant power consumption by said electrodes.

19. The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising a controller for maintaining a substantially constant power consumption by said electrodes.

20. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said orientation sensor comprises a magnetometer.

21. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said orientation sensor comprises an accelerometer.

22. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said device comprises a stabilizer.

23. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said device comprises a steerable rib.

24. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said borehole is filled with a substantially nonconducting fluid and wherein said resistivity sensor is capacitively coupled to said earth formation.

25. The apparatus of claim 24 wherein said resistivity sensor makes measurements at a plurality of different frequencies.

26. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said borehole includes a substantially non-conducting fluid therein.

27. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said borehole includes a substantially non-conducting fluid therein and wherein said resistivity sensor coneys a measure current into said formation using capacitive coupling.

28. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said resistivity sensor further comprises a shielded dipole.

29. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said resistivity sensor further comprises a shielded dipole.

30. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said resistivity sensor further comprises a directionally sensitive induction logging tool.

31. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein said directionally sensitive induction logging tool comprises a quadrupole transmitter.

32. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said resistivity sensor further comprises a radio frequency microwave transmitter

33. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said resistivity sensor comprises an induction coil.

34 A system for use in a borehole for determining a resistivity parameter during drilling of a borehole in an earth formation comprising:

(a) a bottom hole assembly (BHA) including

(i) a resistivity subassembly having a resistivity sensor with a specified offset from a wall of the borehole;

(ii) an orientation sensor on said subassembly for making a measurement of a toolface angle of said subassembly during continued rotation thereof; and

(ii) a device for maintaining said resistivity sensor at said specified offset.

(b) a processor for determining said resistivity parameter from measurements made by said resistivity sensor;

(c) a device for drilling said borehole; and

(d) conveyance device for conveying said BHA into said borehole.

35. The system of claim 34 wherein said device for drilling said borehole comprises a drill bit.

36. The system of claim 34 wherein said conveyance device comprises a drill string.

37. The system of claim 34 wherein said processor is part of said BHA.

38. The system of claim 34 wherein said processor includes a memory device for storing at least a subset of measurements made by said resistivity sensor.

39. The system of claim 34 wherein said resistivity sensor comprises a galvanic sensor.

40. The system of claim 39 wherein said sensor further comprises

(i) a current electrode for conveying a measure current into said formation through a conducting fluid, and

(ii) at least one guard electrode proximate to said current electrode for maintaining focusing of said measure current.

41. The system of claim 40 wherein said processor maintains a substantially constant power consumption by said electrodes.

42. The system of claim 34 wherein said orientation sensor comprises a magnetometer.

43. The system of claim 34 wherein said orientation sensor comprises an accelerometer.

44. The system of claim 34 wherein said device comprises a stabilizer.

45. The system of claim 34 wherein said device comprises a steerable rib.

46. The system of claim 34 wherein said borehole is filled with a substantially nonconducting fluid and wherein said resistivity sensor is capacitively coupled to said earth formation.

47. The system of claim 46 wherein said resistivity sensor makes measurements at a plurality of different frequencies.

48. The system of claim 34 wherein said borehole includes a substantially non-conducting fluid therein and wherein said resistivity sensor conveys a measure current into said formation using capacitive coupling.

49. The system of claim 34 wherein said resistivity sensor further comprises a shielded dipole.

50. The system of claim 34 wherein said resistivity sensor further comprises a directionally sensitive induction logging tool.

51. The system of claim 50 wherein said directionally sensitive induction logging tool comprises a quadrupole transmitter.

52. The system of claim 34 wherein said resistivity sensor further comprises a radio frequency microwave transmitter

53. The system of claim 34 wherein said resistivity parameter comprises a resistivity image of said borehole.

54. A method of determining a parameter of an earth formation during formation of a borehole in said earth formation by a device on a bottom hole assembly (BHA), the method comprising:

(a) maintaining a resistivity sensor on said BHA substantially at a specified offset from a wall of the borehole;

(b) using said resistivity sensor for making measurements indicative of said parameter during continue rotation of said BHA;

(c) using an orientation sensor on said BHA for making a measurement of a toolface angle of said BHA during said continued rotation; and

(d) using a processor for determining from said measurements said parameter

55. The method of claim 54 wherein said resistivity sensor comprises a galvanic sensor.

56. The method of claim 54 further comprising mounting said resistivity sensor on a pad.

57. The method of claim 54 further comprising mounting said resistivity sensor on a rib of said BHA.

58 The method of claim 54 further comprising mounting said resistivity sensor on a stabilizer of said BHA.

59. The method of claim 54 further comprising

(i) using a current electrode of said resistivity sensor for conveying a measure current into said formation through a conducting fluid, and

(ii) using at least one guard electrode proximate to said current electrode for maintaining focusing of said measure current.

60. The method of claim 59 further comprising using said at least one guard electrode for focusing said measure current in a direction substantially normal to a borehole wall.

61. The method of claim 60 wherein said at least one guard electrode surrounds said measure electrode and maintains a focusing of said measure current in a flushed zone of said formation.

62. The method of claim 59 further comprising using said at least one guard electrode for creating substantially spherical equipotential surfaces *spherical focusing*

63. The method of claim 54 further comprising:

(i) using a current electrode of said resistivity sensor for conveying a measure current into said formation,

(ii) measuring a voltage of a measure electrode spaced apart from said current electrode; and

(iii) using said processor for determining from a voltage of said measure electrode and said measure current said resistivity parameter.

64. The method of claim 60 further comprising using monitor electrodes to support the focusing in the presence of non negligible contact impedances.

65. The method of claim 61 further comprising using monitor electrodes to support the focusing in the presence of non negligible contact impedances.

66. The method of claim 60 further comprising a carrying said sensor on a pad that substantially circumscribes said apparatus.

67. The method of claim 66 further comprising using monitor electrodes to support the focusing in the presence of non negligible contact impedances.

68. The method of claim 60 further comprising using a processor for maintaining a substantially constant power consumption by said electrodes.

69. The method of claim 64 further comprising using a processor for maintaining a substantially constant power consumption by said electrodes.

70. The method of claim 66 further comprising using a processor for maintaining a substantially constant power consumption by said electrodes.

71. The method of claim 67 further comprising using a processor for maintaining a substantially constant power consumption by said electrodes.

72. The method of claim 54 wherein said orientation sensor comprises a magnetometer.

73. The method of claim 54 wherein said orientation sensor comprises an accelerometer.

74. The method of claim 54 further comprising using a stabilizer for maintaining said specified offset.

75. The method of claim 54 further comprising using a steerable rib for maintaining said specified offset.

76. The method of claim 54 further comprising:

(i) using said BHA in a borehole is filled with a substantially nonconducting fluid, and

(ii) capacitively coupling said resistivity sensor to said earth formation.

77. The method of claim 76 further comprising using said resistivity sensor for making measurements at a plurality of different frequencies.

78. The method of claim 76 further comprising using said resistivity sensor for making measurements at two frequencies.

79. The method of claim 77 further comprising using said processor for performing a multi-frequency focusing of said measurements.

80. The method of claim 54 wherein said borehole includes a substantially non-conducting fluid therein.

81. The method of claim 55 further comprising:

(i) using said BHA in a borehole is filled with a substantially nonconducting fluid, and

(ii) capacitively coupling said resistivity sensor to said earth formation

82. The method of claim 54 wherein said resistivity sensor further comprises a shielded dipole.

83. The method of claim 80 wherein said resistivity sensor further comprises a shielded dipole.

84. The method of claim 80 wherein said resistivity sensor further comprises a directionally sensitive induction logging tool.

85. The method of claim 84 wherein said directionally sensitive induction logging tool comprises a quadrupole transmitter.

86. The method of claim 80 wherein said resistivity sensor further comprises a radio frequency microwave transmitter.

87. The method of claim 54 further comprising using an induction coil as said resistivity sensor.

88. The method of claim 87 further comprising using said processor for determining an inductance of said induction coil.

89. The method of claim 86 further comprising using said processor for determining an extent of a fluid invasion of the earth formation.

90. The method of claim 54 wherein said orientation sensor comprises a magnetometer